

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-40 stand in the present application, independent claims 10, 11 and 29 having been amended. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Before turning to the Office Action, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's kind offer of an interview to place this case in condition for allowance. The undersigned attempted to contact the Examiner to conduct an interview but was informed that due to the Examiner's serious car accident that he would not be available to conduct an interview. Applicants and the undersigned wish the Examiner a speedy recovery from his injuries and respectfully request that at an appropriate time the Examiner or someone else designated by the Examiner's supervisor grant the interview so as to expeditiously further along the prosecution of this case.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In view of the above described claim amendments, which now more clearly reflect the disclosure within the present application, the Examiner's objection to the specification is believed to be moot. More particularly, claims 10, 11 and 29 no longer recite an angle of 51.56° but instead recite that two angles are formed on either side of the center line with each angle being 25.78° . This limitation is clearly supported in the present specification at, *inter alia*, paragraphs [0045] and [0057]. In addition, since the angular lines which form the 25.78° angle from the center line are clearly shown, for example, in Figures 10 and 12, not to include a point defined by the pressure faces of the bottommost tang or fillet, it is not believed necessary to further amend the present specification.

Finally, the Examiner has rejected the present claims over art that was previously cited under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103. All of the Examiner's rejections based on cited references are believed to have been overcome by the above described claim amendments, as will be described in greater detail below.

In applying the references against the present claims, the Examiner noted at several places in the Office Action that the claims, prior to their amendment, did not specifically recite particular geometry of the intersection of the angle formed by tangent lines along uppermost tangs on either side of the center line bisecting each of the buckets. Applicants have amended the claims as noted above, in order to correct this deficiency pointed out by the Examiner.

More particularly, now each of independent claims 10, 11 and 29 recite that the uppermost tangs or fillets on either side of a center line bisecting each of said buckets respectively define two points of a line that form an angle of 25.78° with the center line, and that each of the points is determined by intersecting tangent lines along pressure faces of the respective uppermost tangs or fillets. Thus, the claims have been amended to more clearly recite the geometrical relationship shown in Figures 9-12 of the present application wherein angle "E" is defined by the geometry of the tangs and fillets to be 25.78° .

Since none of the cited references teach or suggest these angular relationships concerning the upper most tangs or fillets and further that the lines defined by the uppermost tangs and fillets do not coincide with a point formed by the bottommost tang or fillet, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended now more clearly

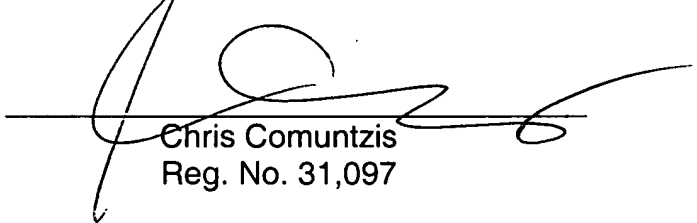
patentably define over all of the cited references taken either singly or in any combination.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 10-40, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


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